

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 are rejected. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 are objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. The drawings and the specification are objected to for specified informalities.

Drawings

The Office Action indicates the drawings are objected to because Figs. 1, 5 and 8 include reference numbers (12, 430 and 66, respectively) that are not mentioned in the specification, and Fig. 7 has two reference numbers needing correction by adding a leading line to reference number 631 in the lower left side and by changing reference number “63” (second occurrence at the right) to --632--.

Applicant amends the drawings as described above and requests reconsideration.

Specification

The Office Action indicates the specification is objected to because in line 18 on page 8 the reference “411” should be replaced with --402--.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The reference number 411 shown in the text is correct. The reference number 402 that is mentioned in the Office Action refers to the “fifth open side” (see page 9, line 7).

The specification is amended as shown above to clarify its description of the figures.

Claims

Claims 1, 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,781,944 (referred to as “Huang”) and claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of U.S. patent 5,745,954 (referred to as “Shogan”). The Office Action indicates claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

In response, Applicant amends claims 1 and 8 and adds new claim 9.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate limitations from claim 2, thereby essentially rewriting claim 2 into independent form. A few changes are made to the limitations that are incorporated from claim 2; namely, some instances of the words “female” and “male” are interchanged to correct the claim so that it conforms to what is disclosed in the specification and illustrated in the drawings.

Claim 8 is amended to incorporate limitations from claim 5 that are not taught by the art of record. New claim 9 is added to recite the features of original claim 5. All other claims pending in the application are dependent either directly or indirectly on claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicant amends the application as explained above and requests reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enc. Amended Figs. 1, 5, 7, 8

Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.10

I certify that this Response to Office Action and all enclosed materials are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on February 22, 2006 as "Express Mail," mailing label EV 539509844 US, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Jean C. Reed

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Fig. 1 is amended by deleting the reference number “12”.

Fig. 5 is amended by deleting the reference number “430”.

Fig. 7 is amended by adding a lead line to reference number --631-- and by changing one of the reference numbers “63” to be --632--.

Fig. 8 is amended by deleting the reference number “66” and by revising reference numbers “631” and “632” to correspond to what is shown in Fig. 6.